

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 COME-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 RSR-01 /042 W

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R 061120Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 520

UNCLAS LAGOS 6304

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, NI

SUBJECT: AIRTRON-LOTTON TRADE COMPLAINT

REF: STATE 151360

1. EMBASSY RESPONDED TO AIRTRON INQUIRY IN JULY 25 TEL-ECON WITH KUPINSKI AND AUGUST 1 LETTER TO AIRTRON (COPY POUCHED STATE AND COMMERCE).

2. IN OUR REPLIES WE INFORMED AIRTRON THAT BANQUE BELGE HAS NO RPT NO OFFICE IN NIGERIA AND BILL OF EXCHANGE ALMOST CERTAINLY FORGERY; AND THAT DUNSTAN RICHARD NOT RPT NOT LISTED IN LOCAL COMMERCIAL SOURCES AND EMBASSY UNABLE TO VERIFY ITS EXISTENCE. WE CITED TO AIRTRON FOLLOWING PASSAGE FROM JUNE 1973 EMBASSY REPLY TO WTDR REQUEST ON DUNSAN RICHARD: "FIRM DID NOT COMPLETE TRADE QUESTIONNAIRE. PERSONAL VISIT NOT PRACTICAL BECAUSE OF LACK OF STREET ADDRESS. NOT LISTED IN AVAILABLE TRADE DIRECTORIES. LOCAL TRADE SOURCES HAVE NOT REPLIED TO ENQUIRY. RECOMMEND NO BUSINESS DEALING UNTIL USEFUL INFORMATION OBTAINED."

3. WE ALSO INVITED AIRTRON TO SEND EMBASSY RELEVANT DOCUMENTS SO THAT WE COULD REFER CASE TO NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES FOR INVESTIGATION.

4. IN LIGHT REFTEL STATEMENT THAT DUNSTAN RICHARD HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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SUBMITTED SECOND ORDER TO AIRTRON WE WILL REFER MAT-

TER TO NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES WITHOUT AWAITING DOCUMENTS. HOWEVER, WE THINK WE HAVE TO LEAVE TO THEM CHOICE OF ACTION, IF ANY, THEY MAY WISH TO TAKE NOW, ALTHOUGH WE WILL MAKE POINT THAT AIRTRON AND EMBASSY READY TO COOPERATE IN ANY ACTION THEY MAY CHOOSE. FYI. WE DOUBT THAT NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES WILL ACT UNTIL THEY HAVE DOCUMENTATION, IF AT ALL, AND ALTHOUGH EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE ITS OWN INQUIRIES, WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT LOCATING DUNSTAN RICHARD WITHOUT HELP OF AUTHORITIES. WE ARE RELUCTANT SUGGEST KUPINSKY HIRE LOCAL LAWYER UNTIL DUNSTAN RICHARD LOCATED, BUT IT COULD EXPEDITE SEARCH AND ADD TO POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING RESTITUTION TO HAVE LOCAL ATTORNEY ON CASE. HOWEVER, THIS DECISION FOR KUPINSKY. END FYI.

5. WE UNDERSTOOD FROM KUPINSKY THAT AIRTRON MADE SHIPMENT WITHOUT PRIOR CHECK ON DUNSTAN RICHARD AND WITHOUT ANY EFFORT VERIFY EXISTENCE BANQUE BELGE (NIGERIA) OR ESTABLISH VALIDITY OF BILL OF EXCHANGE. IF AIRTRON OBTAINED FAVORABLE D AND B REPORT AND DUNSTAN RICHARD AS STATED REFTEL, IT COULD BE HELPFUL TO US TO HAVE SUBSTANCE THAT REPORT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE COMPLAINTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAGOS06304
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730856/aaaaboyt.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 151360
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Nov-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRTRON-LOTTON TRADE COMPLAINT
TAGS: BDIS, NI, AIRTRON, DUNSTAN RICHARD MDSE CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005